country due to red tapism, but it has taken a long time in negotiating extremely complex documents/agreements/structures in such cases with a number of agencies and states. The first mega power project in the private sector is being developed on the Memorandum of Understanding route at Hirma, Orissa by M/s Consolidated Electric Power Asia (India) Ltd. This 3960 MW capacity project envisages supply of power to Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. At present the Power Purchase Agreement is under negotiation. In November, 1995, Government of India formulated a mega power project policy, in pursuance of which a mega power project at Nabinagar in Bihar was conceived, Powergrid floated enquiry for 'Prequalification' of project developers for Nabinagar Power Project through International Competitive Bidding. The notice was issued on the 30th of August, 1996. However, apprehensions were expressed by some of the prospective developers about the availability of coal from the linked mine and the commercial viability of the linked mine block. Subsequently, a new mine block has been allocated for the project. It is proposed to recast the project to a capacity that is commensurate with the reserves in the mine block now allocated for the project.

Gas allocation from Tapti Gas field

2107. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made a commitment of gas allocation from Tapti Gas Field to Pipavav Project in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons as to why the allocation of Gas has not been made as yet; and

(c) the alternative arrangement Government propose to allocate Gas to Pipavav Power Project from such other source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGENDRA K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) It was decided by the Central Government in 1989 to allocate Tapti-Gas to the Pipavav power project in Gujarat. At that time, there was a decision that the gas from Gandhar Gas field will be taken to Hazira and HBJ pipeline. Subsequently, at the request of Government of Gujarat, Gandhar gas was allocated to two power projects at Gandhar. Consequently, it was decided to take Tapti gas to Hazira and HBJ to meet existing commitments. Government of Gujarat has been advised to base the Pipavav project on alternative fuel.

Re-Pumping of Water into Reservoirs

2108. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study of economic feasibility and other benefits has been made in the country about re-pumping the water into reservoirs during the low power consumption during lean period to produce power to meet the peak period requirements;

(b) whether this system has been adopted in any Indian Power Plant, if so, the details of the plant;

(c) the details of performance of such plants;

(d) whether Government are aware that such a system is common is most Hydel Plants in the Western Countries; and